GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20, 1922. Vol. 1. No. 17.

1. The Athens of Today.
2. The Geography of Cabinet Governments.
3. How India's Religions Bear on History.
4. Kiakhta: A Municipal Siamese Twin.
5. Swatow: City of Coolies and Embroidery.

© *National Geographic Society.*

A BRIDE AND HER ATTENDANTS AT A KACHIN WEDDING: BURMA. (See Bulletin No. 3.)

When Kachin girls are of marriageable age they leave their homes at night, with the consent of their parents, to stay at a house set apart for the purpose. There they meet the bachelors of the village and choose a husband from among them. The formal wedding takes place when the girl is quite sure which man she wishes to marry. After the ceremony she walks to her new home between rows of pigs, which are slaughtered as she passes, their blood wetting her feet.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Athens of Today

WHEN the city of Athens, scene of the world's most recent abdication, originally passed from Turkish control and was designated as the capital of the new free kingdom of Greece, it was a mere handful of wretched huts clustered about the Acropolis. Today it is a thoroughly modern city, with splendid streets, magnificent public buildings, handsome residences, attractive parks, and most of the modern improvements of which western cities boast.

The building of this city in a land of such scanty resources is fairly comparable to the development of our own rich West, and even more meritorious when all the circumstances are considered. Indeed, had the Greek of today nothing to his credit save the building of the attractive capital of his nation, that alone would be sufficient to rank him among the constructive agencies of the modern world.

A Medley of the Modern and the Antique

In this city of old memories and now of strikingly new plans, Greek life centers as in its classic days; and here ancient and modern Greece are inextricably mingled in a curious medley of modernity and antiquity, which colors the most ordinary of every-day affairs. On every hand arise shattered monuments of its splendid past, and even the tiniest fragments which serve to link the life of the present with the days that are gone are most carefully preserved.

The Greek government has been keenly alive to its responsibility for the safeguarding of its antiquities, and the Department of Archaeology, under the charge of the Ministry of Education and Religion, is painstakingly organized and prudently administered. The museums at Athens are handsomely housed, conveniently arranged, accurately catalogued, and open to inspection and study without fee, this latter fact being a point of great pride with Athenians.

In addition there are now, at various points in the kingdom where research is going on, smaller museums devoted to the preservation of the treasures of the locality.

Acropolis Dominates as of Old

Crowning the city stands the sheer and mighty rock of the Acropolis, dominated by the Parthenon, matchless even in its ruins, projecting the changeless purity of its lines against the background of the changing centuries, which have made of it in turn the shrine of the vestal, the church of the Christian, the mosque of the Moslem, and now and ever the ideal of all lovers of the beautiful.

Near at hand cluster the chief remnants of the glory that was Greece; on the one side the tiny gem of the Temple of the Wingless Victory; so chaste and delicate in its proportions and outline, and on the other the Erechtheum, with its unique Porch of the Caryatides.

Hard by the stairs of the imposing Propylaea rises the sturdy rock of the Hill of Mars, whence St. Paul declared the Unknown God. At a little distance stands the rough-hewn Bema, where Demosthenes and Ctesiphon strove in match-

Photograph from Horace Brodsky. © *National Geographic Society.*

THE CORN BAZAAR AT KIAKHTA, SIBERIA

Here many races meet. The man in the foreground is a Tatar. The two sitting in the right background and wearing caps are Russians. The man in a skirt is a Buriat. The unshaven one at the left is a Jew.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Geography of Cabinet Governments

THE creation of a new cabinet in England affords an example of a government system which is a growing factor in world affairs.

Before the World War broke up the autocracies of Europe, France was the only Republic on the continent employing the British form of cabinet government. Now the list includes, besides France: Finland, Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria.

Our Cabinet Different

Frequent agitation to permit members of the United States cabinet to be present on the floor of the Senate and House and to take part in debate on matters concerning their departments serves to bring out the difference between the privileges and duties of the cabinet members of various countries.

To begin with, the "Cabinet" of the United States is a cabinet in name only, for the government of the United States is in no sense a "cabinet government" as are the governments of Great Britain and France, and those of a large number of the other leading countries of the world. There is not even formal sanction for the existence of our cabinet as an advisory council to the President. The members have an undoubted legal status as heads of the various administrative departments, but the President need never call them together. President Washington held no cabinet meetings at first, and President Wilson did not call his department heads together for a period of many months. When the President does receive the advice of his cabinet, he is under no obligation to follow it.

Britain "Mother of Cabinets"

Great Britain is "the mother of cabinets" as well as "the mother of parliaments." Her cabinet is not of a fixed size, and while most members are heads of departments, there may be members "without portfolio" who have no special duties. In direct contrast to the situation in the United States, every member must be a member of either the lower or upper house of Parliament. All have seats in both houses and therefore not only have the privilege of debating but also of voting. Of greatest importance, when an important vote in the House of Commons goes against the cabinet its members must resign, so as to permit a new cabinet, usually of the opposing political party, to be formed.

The Cabinet, under the British system, is really a committee of the House of Commons which the party in power permits to manage all executive affairs, and to shape and lead all legislative action. The Cabinet in action is the real government: while it functions the Prime Minister is the real ruler, and Parliament is his instrument.

But there are checks and balances. The House of Commons can force the resignation of the Cabinet, and the Cabinet can force the dissolution of the House. The matter is thus put squarely up to the people, who elect another House, from the majority party of which a new cabinet is chosen.

Practically all of the older part of the Western World is under cabinet government. This includes all of Europe except Russia and Switzerland, South

less phrase, while just below rise the ivory-tinted columns of the Temple of Theseus, best preserved of all the classic remains.

Relics of Roman Rule

Within a few steps rise the green-clad walls of the Stoa of Hadrian, which tell of that distant day when the Roman Emperor ruled in Hellas. On the further side of the Rock are still other remnants of Roman rule and rulers in the graceful arch of Hadrian—with its jealous inscriptions demarking the city of Theseus from that of the Romans—and the giant Corinthian columns of the huge Temple of Olympian Zeus, which tower into the clear blue of the Attic sky, while nearer at hand, in the very shadow of the Parthenon and close by the Sanctuary of Aesculapius, is the theater of Dionysus, Greek of the Greek, and serving now in its proportions as the model playhouse of the world.

Another relic of Hadrian's day, still serving the purpose of its imperial builder, dead these 1,900 years, is the ancient aqueduct, dating from the year 146, which still brings water to the city.

Athens is an inland city, but five or six miles of rail extending to the excellent harbor at Piraeus make it practically a port. Even closer, barely five miles away and south of Piraeus, is Phaleron, the city's seaside resort. It stands for pleasure as Piraeus stands for the commerce in which Greeks have always taken an active part.

Athens' climb from her squalid and unattractive village days under Turkish rule to her position as a well-built modern capital was materially helped by the patriotism of some of her sons who prospered in foreign lands. Wealthy Greeks from abroad have donated to their mother country the noble group of buildings which comprise the University, the National Library and the Academy of Science. Through similar generosity the famous old Athenian Stadium was rebuilt on its old site, many fragments of the original structure being incorporated. There have been held in recent years the Olympic Games which originated in Greece thousands of years ago.

With Piraeus, and a few other suburbs Athens has a population approaching 450,000, a number of inhabitants closely comparable to that of Washington, D. C.

Photograph by A. W. Cutler. © *National Geographic Society.*

A BEND IN THE ROAD AT THE VILLAGE OF WICK, WORCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

These old half-timbered houses, dating back to Queen Elizabeth's reign, are a feature of this country. **(See Bulletin No. 2.)**

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

How India's Religions Bear on History

INDIA and her problems and movements cannot be understood unless something is known of the tangled threads of numerous religions that are entwined with every fiber of her life.

Religious antagonism has heretofore been the rock upon which every proposed all-India movement has broken up, although the imprisoned leader, Ghandi, has been able, in a measure, to enlist followers from some of the most divergent of India's "jarring creeds."

Religion a Spice to the Indian

Religion is the soul of Indian life, the spice in an otherwise unendurable existence. To the Hindu, Mohammedan or Sikh, religion is by no means nominal but is an actual force in everyday affairs. Religious festivals mark the changes of the year. The temple grounds are the meeting places of the people and the forums of public opinion.

Asceticism is attractive and holy men abound from the Himalayas, beloved by Kim's guru, to the tropical sea beside which Dravidian temples raise their gopurams and Christian churches show their spires.

Probably nowhere is religion used with more profitable results by charlatans and impostors than in India. So great a virtue is charity that the very mountebank is considered a public benefactor. The Moslem mendicant often lends real dignity to the dignified word "fakir." But many "holy men" are more faker than fakir.

Religion a Coat of Many Colors

Nowhere else have men, through religion, so detached themselves from the passions and frivolities of worldly life. Nowhere has religion so seasoned unmitigated misery. Nowhere has religion been the cloak for more blatant beggary and disgusting deception. Nowhere is religion a more potent political factor.

More than two-thirds of the people of India are Hindus. Modern Hinduism grew out of Brahmanism, and is still called by that name. The earlier belief was in one omnipotent but impersonal Being, whose personal manifestations were Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Preserver; and Siva, the Destroyer and Reproducer. Brahma has few followers. Vishnu is worshipped by millions, upon whose foreheads is painted a device called namam, consisting of a vertical red line inside a U-shaped figure in white clay. But the favorite god of many Hindus is Siva.

Conquered Buddhism by Compromise

When Buddha gained followers in India, the Brahmins accepted Buddha as the ninth incarnation of Vishnu and by this compromise they so modified the gentle faith of the Buddhists that they drove Buddhism into Ceylon, Burma and the Far East, so that the religion of the Hindu, modified by the teachings

Africa, and the French portions of North Africa. Canada brings a large part of North America into the cabinet column. In the East, Australia and New Zealand have true cabinet governments, Japan has a slightly modified form, and China a nominal one.

Chile Has Real Cabinet

The constitutions of most of the countries of the Western Hemisphere have been modeled after that of the United States with an absence of responsible cabinets. Chile is the only republic of the New World with a cabinet whose members both sit in Congress and must resign when there is a formal vote of "lack of confidence."

The British Cabinet form of government came into existence by a series of happy accidents. Because the old Privy Council became such a large, unwieldy body, the king fell into the habit of consulting with only the few leaders, holding a small council in his cabinet or private apartment. Shortly afterward England had two German Kings who could not understand English, and the "Cabinet Council" was permitted to meet without the sovereign. By the time an English-speaking king came to the throne the custom of excluding the king from cabinet meetings had been firmly fixed.

Bulletin No. 2, November 20, 1922.

THE THESEUM, ATHENS, GREECE

The Best Preserved Greek Temple in the World. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Kiakhta: A Municipal Siamese Twin

THE Red forces which are pushing toward Vladivostok, in Siberia, as the Japanese evacuate that port, first made themselves felt as a serious menace in the Far Eastern Republic when they captured Kiakhta on their march toward Chita.

The greatness of Kiakhta lies in the past and future rather than in the present. Where the caravans have rested, railway stations soon will lie. Even the airplane follows historic trade routes. Kiakhta is an important way station on a famous commercial highway that linked two continents. It is 250 miles south of Lake Baikal. Although the completion of the Trans-Siberian railway to Vladivostok caused a temporary detour, Kiakhta is sure to be on the railway that is to connect the tea bibbers of Moscow and the tea merchants of Hankow.

City Built on Tea Trade

One rail head has been pushed south from the Siberian border and another line connects Peking to Kalgan, so that there remains only a thousand miles of easy railway building to shorten the tea route from Hankow to the Trans-Siberian at Verhne-Udinsk by one-half, and to obviate entirely the need for transporting across salt water the tea to which Kiakhta owes its very being. Other beverages may have made cities famous but tea made Kiakhta itself. Just across the boundary line, only a stone's throw away, is the Chinese companion city, Maimachen.

Kiakhta and Maimachen face each other across a neutral zone only a few feet wide, but they are as different as two such Siamese twins among border cities can well be. Maimachen is Chinese, bare and gray, filled with Oriental figures in the blue gowns of China. Kiakhta is Russian, with churches and great white houses, and its inhabitants wear the familiar blouse and boots of the Russian from the Dnieper to the Amur.

Where the Teapot Is King

In Maimachen, the teapot is king. The samovar rules Kiakhta. The twin cities form a station in the long route between the tea packing establishments of Hankow and the fair at Nijni Novgorod.

With the completion of the Trans-Siberian, it became a very simple thing to load tea ships at Hankow, in the heart of China, and unload them at Vladivostok, outpost of the Czar's realm, whence a direct railway led to the heart of Russia. Then the caravan tea trade which had reached 50,000,000 pounds a year, began to decline. The long camel trains across the Gobi desert through Urga, where dwells the Chief Lama of the Mongols, became fewer. The desert journey of a thousand miles, which plodding camels finished in forty days, was supplanted by a water and rail route much longer in distance but shorter in time. Steamers and boxcars formed the last straw which broke the camel's back as a tea carrier.

The tea tasters at the Nijni fair on the Volga declared that they could detect

of Buddha, pervades India from Benares to Conjeeveram and from Kumbakonam to Allahabad.

When the various Mohammedan conquerors poured in over the northern passes they brought their religion with them, so that India has more Mohammedans than Turkey ever ruled and the assemblage of "the faithful" in the Great Mosque of Delhi forms one of the largest congregations of the followers of Mohammed to be found anywhere. The sensitiveness of this Moslem group over alleged insults to the Khalif or Sultan of Turkey has done much to complicate world politics. With more than sixty-six million Mohammedans within its boundaries, India ranks at the top of the list of Moslem lands. But Indian Mohammedanism is strongly tinged with Hindu culture and has lost much of the militant quality which distinguished it in the days of Baber and Akbar.

Sikhs an Offshoot

The Sikhs broke away from the orthodox Hindu faith under the leadership of Nanak, who was born in the Punjab, near Amritsar, the capital city of the Sikhs, in 1469. Sikh means disciple and these schismatics once worshipped their Gurus or teachers, but later transferred their devotion to the Granth, or holy book which proclaims their faith and principles. The Sikhs abolished caste, that curse and blessing of Hindu society, and their militant ardor has given them a standing out of all proportion to their membership of three millions.

India has nearly four million Christians, mostly Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Baptists but with large numbers of Syrian Christians, whose patriarch lives in Antioch. Most of the Christians are found in Madras Presidency and on the Travancore Coast.

From Peshawar to Cape Comorin, India contains many Animists among the hill tribes and aboriginal races and even the Buddhists of Burma hold to some Animistic beliefs, whose influence is felt throughout the land.

Homes for Decrepit Animals

Two of the most interesting but numerically unimportant religious groups are the Jains and the Parsis. The Jains form a monastic group rather than a religion, agree with the Hindus in many principles, ascribe a soul to every animal however small and seek to secure release from the bonds of transmigration. According to their belief, only the monks can attain Nirvana. Their homes for decrepit animals are world famous and their temples are noted for the intricacy of their carvings and the wealth of ornament which distinguishes them.

The Parsis are descendants of the fire worshippers who were expelled from the region of Baku on the Caspian Sea by the Mohammedan conquests. These followers of Zoroaster, whose ability as merchants has given them unusual economic strength, refuse to defile the elements, and expose their dead to vultures rather than burn or bury them. They assert that fire is simply a symbol for their God of glory and light. Their women are among the best educated in the entire Orient. Hospitals for both animals and human beings are endowed by the Parsis and they erect many monuments. These people dominate the business life of Bombay.

From the ignorant villager of the south, breaking a coconut as a sacrifice to some one of India's millions of maleficent gods to the Jain of Mount Abu, stepping aside to avoid treading on a worm, religion is a vital force to India's people. Atheism is growing but to offset this baneful influence the Brahma Samaj and the Christian missionary are exerting their best efforts and the great religions are holding their followers in line.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Swatow: City of Coolies and Embroidery

SWATOW, which was all but swept off the map by a typhoon this summer was put there by coolies and embroidery.

The coolies go south to the Straits Settlements, whence they send home much money and come themselves when their toil in the tropics has won them a competence.

Just as the Canton Chinese have impressed themselves on America, the Ningpo merchants made their way in most of the trade marts of China, and the Shantung coolie won honor on the battle-fields of France, so the Swatow coolie has had his share in the development of the Straits Settlements and more than one has risen to affluence thereby.

Relief Measure Creates An Industry

Swatow also produces a peculiar grass cloth or native linen, made, not from flax, but from a form of hemp. Table sets of this material, embroidered in white or contrasting colors, with storks and dragons and other fanciful designs, are admired and prized throughout the world. This industry was started by a missionary as a means of relief during one of the many disasters from which Swatow has suffered and it has attained huge proportions. Swatow embroidery, drawn work and grass cloth today form a "best seller" in native shops from Hong Kong to Shanghai.

If in China you overhear a reference to "Swatow Blues" do not conclude that the city is going in for jazz. An important Swatow product is indigo, and the city has a full share in making China "the land of the blue gown."

Leading Market for Foreign Goods

The influx of money from the Straits and the Philippines is so great that Swatow can always import more than it exports and it has been one of the best markets for foreign goods to be found on the whole wrinkled coast of China.

Sugar is also one of Swatow's chief products and the British and American Consulates are situated near the main refinery on Kakchioh. Hong Kong, however, is winning away the sugar trade from Swatow, which was once the center of sugar production. The fields inland from Swatow produce huge crops of sugar-cane and the Mandarin oranges of the region are famed throughout the East.

Swatow's Location Invites Disaster

Of the important ports that hide here and there along the very irregular coast line of China, Swatow's misfortune is that of being less protected from the sea than her neighbors to the north and south. Shanghai is several miles up the Woosung. Hangchow, the city of the famous tidal wave or bore, which resembles the one in the Bay of Fundy, is far enough from the sea to escape the force of the storm. One ascends for miles between low-lying banks dotted with ice houses for preserving fish before coming to Ningpo. Foochow is several

the deterioration in quality due to transport over a water route and the connoisseurs of Russia have secured a considerable amount of Hankow tea, much of it compressed into brick form, over the Gobi route. Until the iron horse takes the place of camel caravan or ox-cart, there will probably be plenty for the Mongol and Buriat camel drivers to do along the great tea trail. Recenty there have been about 100,000 camels used in tea transit alone, but with the breakdown of the Trans-Siberian, caravans have been changed from anachronism to necessity and between one and two million camels are being used in Mongolia, Trans-Baikalia and Manchuria.

The Mongols along this age-old trail between Kalgan and Kiakhta are good-natured and hospitable. They are expert horsemen and they still "capture" their wives in true Lochinvar style, although a previous arrangement is usually made with the father of the bride. Their felt yurts, or tent homes, are almost bare of furniture and wealth is reckoned by the number of head of live stock which the individual possesses. Although they are devout Buddhists, the Mongols find strict vegetarianism in the desert an unattainable ideal. They are popularly famous as descendants of the conquering hordes of former days and as owners of the picturesque camels which enliven the usual pictures of the Tatar wall at Peking.

Bulletin No. 4, November 20, 1922.

Note to Teachers

References to articles and pictures in The National Geographic Magazine concerning subjects treated in this Bulletin are given because many teachers wish to employ them for further study or for project and problem assignments. The following is only a partial bibliography extracted from "The Cumulative Index of The National Geographic Magazine" (1899-1922, inclusive). A limited supply of some copies may be ordered from the Society's offices at the prices named. Those numbers marked with an asterisk (*) are out of print. Bound volumes of The Geographic may be consulted in any public library and in school libraries.

Athens: The Greece of Today. By George Higgins Moses. Vol. XXVIII, pp. 295-329, 27 illustrations, October, 1915. 25c.

England: The Oldest Nation of Europe (Geographical Factors in the Strength of Modern England). By Roland G. Usher. Vol. XXVI, pp. 393-414, 11 illustrations, October, 1914. 25c.

Through the Heart of England in a Canadian Canoe. By R. J. Evans. Vol. XLI, pp. 473-497, 27 illustrations, May, 1922. 50c.

India: Castles in the Air—Experience and Journeys in Unknown Bhutan. By John Claude White. Vol. XXV, pp. 365-455, 75 illustrations, 1 page map, April, 1914. 25c.

Religious Penances and Punishments Self-Inflicted by the Holy Men of India. By W. M. Zumbro. Vol. XXIV, pp. 1257-1314, 69 illustrations, Dec., 1913. 25c.

Through the Heart of Hindustan: A Teeming Highway Extending for Fifteen Hundred Miles, from the Khyber Pass to Calcutta. By Maynard Owen Williams. Vol. XL, pp. 433-467, 29 illustrations, Nov., 1921. 50c.

Siberia: The Far Eastern Republic. By Junius B. Wood. Vol. XLI, pp. 566-592, 30 illustrations, June, 1922. 50c.

Glimpses of Siberia, the Russian "Wild East." By Cody Marsh. Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 512-536, 26 illustrations, December, 1920. 50c.

Western Siberia and the Altai Mountains: With Some Speculations on the Future of Siberia. By Viscount James Bryce. Vol. XXXIX, pp. 469-507, 39 illustrations, May, 1921. (*)

China: Shantung-China's Holy Land. By Charles K. Edmunds. Vol. XXXVI, pp. 231-252, 21 illustrations, 1 half-page map, Sept., 1919. 25c.

The Kingdom of Flowers: An Account of the Wealth of Trees and Shrubs of China and What the Arnold Arboretum, With China's Help, Is Doing to Enrich America. By Ernest H. Wilson. Vol. XXII, pp. 1003-1035, 24 illustrations, Nov., 1911. 75c.

hours' run up the Min. Amoy is situated very much like Swatow but lies on much higher ground. Hong Kong is on the landward side of the island of Victoria and the safety of its harbor is as famous as its beauty.

Swatow owes its existence to the Han Kiang, whose muddy waters built up the low plain on which a small fishing village grew to a treaty port of considerable importance. And it is upon the low-lying alluvial plain on both banks of the Han that the port depends for its importance.

Hills Form Funnels for Winds

From August to October, the typhoons swept up the Chinese coast and opposite Swatow the hills of southern Formosa form a funnel whose force is most felt along the low-lying coast on which Swatow squats. So potent are the winds that many of the missionary buildings are hid among the low hills of Kakchioh, across the tempestuous roadstead from Swatow proper.

To the tourist Swatow is an uninteresting city. It has only one good road, that the newly macadamized Malo or great road, which more or less parallels the wharves from the large piers of the ocean-going vessels to the tiny havens to which the fishing boats and up-river junks repair.

Bulletin No. 5, November 20, 1922.

A SECTION OF THE FRIEZE OF THE PARTHENON